MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TOWYN

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR 1964

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the Towyn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1964. The Register General's estimate of the mid year population shows a well marked increase in population from 3,930 in 1963 to 4,110 in 1964. The 1962 figure was 3,870 and the 1961 census gave the population as 3,821 so that it seems that there is a steady increase. However it must be remembered that the 1951 census figure 4,491.

There were 80 live births in 1964 compared with 67 in 1963 and 53 in 1962. There was one stillbirth and one infant death.

The number of deaths was 53 (48 in 1963 and 45 in 1962). Most of the deaths were due to Cancer, Strokes and diseases of the heart and coronary vessles.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and there was one death from tuberculosis. Six cases of paratyphoid occured in Towyn but these had been infected in Caernarvonshire and no further cases occured in the area.

I wish to thank Mr. Taylor the Public Health Inspector, the Clerk and all the other officers of the council for their co-operation.

Finally I thank the members of the council for their support during the year.

Your obedient servant,

H. FRANCIS.

District Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS
1964.

Area of District	22.959 acr
Rateable Value	£101,883
Population (Registrar General's figures)	4,110
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£395
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Book) at end of year	1,488

VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors -

Births ...	1.28
Deaths ...	0.83

BIRTHS

Live Births		Males	Females
Total	80	42	38
Legitimate	76	39	37
Illegitimate	4	3	1

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 19.46
1963 figures 17.05

Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population) - 0.97

STILL BIRTHS

		Males	Females
Total	1	Nil	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population -00.24

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births -12.34

TOTAL BIRTHS (Live & Still) - 81.

		Males	Females
Live	80	42	38
Still	1	Nil	1

DEATHS.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.	Males	Females
Total	Nil	1
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Infant Mortality Rater per 1,000 Live Births - 12.50
1963 figures - 14.92

Deaths of Legitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births) - 13.16

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births) - Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS	Males	Females
Total		
Legitimate	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	Males	Females
Total		
Legitimate	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate		

Neo-natal Mortality Rate - nil
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate - 12.35

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) Nil

Maternal Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Still Births
1963 figures - Nil

DEATHS.	Males	Females
Total Number - 53	27	26

Rate per 1,000 population - 12.89
1963 figures - 12.21

DEATHS FROM CANCER	Males	Females
Total Number 10	5	5

Rate per 1,000 population - 02.43
1963 figures - 2.58

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS		
Total Number	1	Nil

Rate per 1,000 population - 00.24
1963 figures - Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health.
One Public Health Inspector.

(2) Laboratory Facilities

Water analysis (chemical) by the public analyst, Chester. Bacteriological examination of water at the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.

(3) Ambulance Facilities

One Ambulance stationed at Rhoslefain

(4) Infant Welfar Clinics

Held every fortnight at the Church Hall
At Aberdovey on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics

Held at the Towyn and District Hospital at 2 p.m. on the last Wednesdays and on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic

At Towyn Hospital once a month.

(7) TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

At Towyn Hospital on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

(8) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against Diptheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and poliomyelitis is carried out in the Infant Welfare Clinics in General Practitioners surgeries and in Primary Schools.

(9) HOSPITALS

One hospital at Towyn.

(10) INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis notified during the year :- 9

Scarlet Fever	- nil
Bacillary Dysentry	- nil
Whooping Cough	- nil
Measles	- nil
Infantile Paralysis	- nil
Pneumonia	- nil
Paratyphoid	- 6
Food poisoning	- 3

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

Pulmonary Total 2
Males 1 Females 1

Non-Pulmonary Total nil
Males -- Females --

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary Total 1
Males 1 Females nil

Non-Pulmonary Total nil
Males -- Females --

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1964 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1								
1 year								
2 - 4								
5 - 9								
10 - 14								
15 - 19								
20 - 24								
25 - 34								
35 - 44								
45 - 54								
55 - 64		1						
65 - 74	1							
75 and over					1			

CAUSES OF DEATH 1964.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	nil
Tuberculosis other		
Syphilitic disease		
Other infective and parasitic diseases		
Cancer Stomach	2	-
" Bronchus	2	-
" Uterus		1
" Breast	-	2
" Other sites	1	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia		
Diabetes		
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6
Coronary disease, angina	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease		
Other heart diseases	3	3
Other circulatory disease		
Influenza		
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		
Hyperplasia of prostate		
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	-	1
Suicide	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-

FOOD HYGIENE.

Food premises were inspected and advise given etc., food handlers generally during the year.

No. of prosecutions - Nil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

Aberdovey, Bryncrug, Towyn and Cwrt.

The supply of water to these communities was again satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Regular sampling proved the quality of water to be most excellent.

Bacteriological Analysis.

47 samples from public and private supplies were submitted for analysis, the results of which were as follows -

SUPPLY	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total	
	1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964
Aberdovey	6	9	1	1	7	10
Abertrinant	5	5	2	1	7	6
Bryncrug	9	6	2	1	11	7
Cwrt and Pennal	6	6	1	-	7	6
Towyn	11	10	-	2	11	12
Private	7	4	2	2	9	6
TOTAL	44	40	8	7	52	47

The figures for 1963 are shown for comparison

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Aberdovey.

The discharge of crued sewage at high tide from the wharf storage tanks into the Dovey Estuary still continues and results, at times, in pollution of the beaches. This gives rise to complaint and so the implementing of the Council's proposed new sewage disposal scheme for remedying this nuisance is most anxiously awaited.

Bryncrug.

The sewage pumping station and disposal works serving this village has been operating satisfactorily during the year.

Towyn.

The system operated satisfactorily in general but trouble was experienced at the pumping stations during the months of July and August due to the considerable increase of flow.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council's direct labour scheme for collection and disposal of refuse has functioned satisfactorily. Collections are made twice weekly at Aberdovey and Towyn and once weekly at Bryncrug. Collections at Cwrt are made regularly once weekly by Dolgellau Rural District Council on contract to the Council.

Every effort has been made to maintain the Council's two refuse depositories in a tidy condition, but the lack of suitable covering material and very large quantities of cardboard and other similar contents in the refuse has made this work most difficult. Tip fires have occasionally occured but have not given rise to any serious nuisance.

Regular treatments have been carried out to keep the tips free from rat and fly infestations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The number and nature of visits were as follows -

	1964
Abattoir	182
Accumulations	7
Bakehouses	19
Cinemas	7
Caravan and Camping Sites	320
Dairies and Milk Supplies	30
Dirty Condition of Premises	3
Disinfestation	16
Drainage and Sewerage	271
Dwelling Houses	593
Factories	19
Food Premises - General	181
Fouling of Water Courses	6
Hill Farming Act	1
Ice Cream Premises	32
Improvement Grants	56
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection ...	14
Keeping of animals	2
Licensed Premises	29
National Assistance Act	2
Nuisances	196
Offensive Odours	1
Petroleum Acts	12
Public Conveniences	79
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	262
Rodent Control	71
Schools	6
Shops Act	14
Smoke Nuisances	4
Unsound Food	78
Water supplies	98
Miscellaneous Visits	201
Total	2812

Complaints received and investigated - 197

The number of notices served and complied with were as shown:-

Statute	Notices not complied with at end of 1963	Notices served during 1964.		Notices complied with during 1964	Notices not complied with at end of 1964.
		Statutory	Informal		
Public Health Act	7	-	149	141	8
Food and Drugs Act	1	-	16	15	1
Housing Act	3	-	12	11	1
Damage by Pests Act	-	-	4	4	-
Clean Air Act	-	-	1	1	-
TOTAL	11	-	182	172	10

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health -

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted.
		Inspections	Written Notices	
1. Factories in which Sections 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	8	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	23	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises	1	2	-	-
TOTAL	28	33	-	-

2. Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions.
		Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

Disinfection.

Fourteen premises were disinfected during the year, following cases of infecious and other diseases.

Disinfestation.

Twenty-three premises were treated for insect infestation including ants, beetles, flies and cockroaches.

Anti-fly measures were again caarried out on the Aberdovey and Towyn refuse depositories.

Rodent Control.

All rodent work at private dwellings was again carried out free of charge, but the cost incurred in treating agricultural and business premises was recovered from the occupiers.

The work of the Rodent Operative during the year is shown below -

Type of Property	Inspections	Number infested and treated for		Visits for Treatment	Total Visits.
		Rats	Mice		
Local Authority Properties	20	8	3	31	51
Dwelling Houses	304	160	30	281	585
Agricultural Properties	72	41	2	63	135
Business Properties	91	54	7	97	188
TOTAL	488	263	42	472	960

In addition the Aberdovey and Towyn sewers were twice treated during the year and regular treatments carried out on the Council's two refuse depositories.

Public Conveniences.

The eight public conveniences in the district were again well maintained in a clean and tidy condition throughout the year despite their frequent misuse by the public. There is still need for additional toilet facilities in the area and to meet this need the Council has provided one convenience at Bryncrug and has started work on a second at the Station in Towyn. It is felt that this will satisfy the demand for these areas.

Caravan Sites.

There are now 19 sites established under the Act in the area providing accommodation for 1039 caravans. Some of the sites increased in size during the year and this helped to ease the overcrowding experienced hitherto. Conditions were generally satisfactory but during the period July and August some overcrowding was experienced and it was apparent further accommodation is necessary for tourists passing through the district. An urgent need for tented camping sites was evident during the year.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts.

No schemes were effected during the year.

Improvement Grants.

Two applications for grant-aid under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, for improvements to houses were received and approved during the year. The grants involved amounted in total to £230.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The table which appears overleaf gives the number of carcases inspected and particulars of carcases and parts thereof condemned at the local slaughterhouse:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	248	2967	26	-
Number inspected	248	2967	26	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole condemned	Nil	1	-	-
Part or organ condemned	27	290	8	-
Percentage of number affected	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only				
Whole condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part or organ condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticerosis				
Part or organ condemned	4	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted for treatment	4	-	..	-
Totally condemned	-	-	-	-

The total number of carcasses examined during the year was 3241.

Weight of Diseased and Unsound Meat and Offal Condemned.

	Tons	Cwts	Qrts	Lbs.
Meat ...	-	1	2	20
Offal ...	-	7	1	10
Total ...	-	9	0	2

All this meat and offal was disposed of for processing and recovery purposes by the owners of the slaughterhouse.

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation.

1. Whole Carcasses - Sheep I - Injury
2. Part carcasses and offal -

Disease	CATTLE						SHEEP AND LAMBS				PIGS						
	Head and Tongue	Lungs	Livers	Part Liver	Splean	Skirt	Shoulders	Legs	Lungs	Livers	Leg	Head and Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Stomach and Intestines
Abcess	1	5	3						2	14							
Actinomycosis																	
Angioma			3														
Bruising																	
Bacilliary Necosis																	
Congestion		4		3	3				7				1				
Cysts	3	4	4						26	48						1	
Degeneration																	
Facioliosis			5	26						23							
Milk Spot														7			
Malformation	1						4	3									
Parasitic		1	5							29							
Pericarditis																	
Peritonitis																	
Pleurisy		2							8				2				
Pneumonia									9				7				
Strongyli																	
Tuberculosis									27								
Melanosis																	
TOTALS	5	16	20	29	3	-	4	3	72	114	-	-	10	7	-	1	-

I am pleased to report that there were no lessions of Tuberculosis found in any animals slaughtered during this year.

Slaughterhouse Control and Meat Transport.

No applications were received for licences in respect of new private slaughterhouses. Adequate facilities to meet the needs of all the local butchers are provided at the existing slaughterhouse owned by the Towyn Wholesale Meat Co. Ltd.

The general conditions at the slaughterhouse have been well maintained and the standard of hygiene and cleanliness most satisfactory. The work on the provision of additional facilities under the new legislation has been satisfactorily completed. The stunning pen has proved particularly beneficial in ensuring the maximum safety and absence of cruelty.

All meat was inspected prior to leaving the slaughterhouse and was of very good quality throughout the year.

The transport and handling of all meat has been carried out satisfactorily, every precaution being taken to prevent the soiling and contamination of dressed carcasses and offal.

Other Foods Condemned.

The following table gives details of the nature and weight of the foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption. They were disposed of by burial.

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Canned Meat	1	1	10
" Fruit	2	-	4
" Vegetables	-	-	22
" Milk and Cream	-	1	10
" Fish	-	2	22
" Soups	-	-	14
Total ...	4	2	24

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Licensed dealers in the District - 11

The duties concerned with sampling of milk under the Milk Regulations was transferred to the County Council in 1961. Mr. R.T. Edwards, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, has reported as follows on samples taken in the District during the year -

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1960

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES.

CLASS OF MILK	NO. OF SAMPLES	APPROPRIATE TESTS	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	
			Passes	Failed
Pasteurised	–	Phosphatase	–	–
		Methylene Blue	–	–
T.T. Pasteurised	20	Phosphatase	20	–
		Methylene Blue	18	2
T.T. Raw	13	Methylene Blue	9	4

BIOLOGICAL MILK SAMPLES.

No of samples tested	13
Tuberculosis or Brucella Infection	–
Number of licensed dealers in Towyn District	11

Ice-Cream.

There are 28 premises in the District registered for the sale of ice-cream. All ice-cream sold in the district is wrapped or pre-packed.

Regular inspections were made of the premises and they were all found to maintain good standard of hygiene.

No samples taken.

Food Hygiene.

There are 113 food premises in the district, comprising 9 hotels and licensed premises, 37 guest and boarding houses, 12 cafes and restaurants, 24 grocers (including green-grocers) 3 fish frying restaurants, 3 bakehouses, 6 school canteens, 5 butcher shops and 12 confectioners shops. In addition there are the 28 ice-cream premises previously mentioned in the report although some of these are included in the premises listed above

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness at these premises was generally found to be quite good and I am pleased to report that several improvements were effected during the year. In particular it was found that a number of shops had installed refrigerated food display cabinets. An increasing number of shopkeepers, too, are displaying their goods in transparent wrapped containers which provide good protection against external contamination. This indicates an improved awareness of the need for good hygiene in the food catering industry.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Sampling of food for compositional quality under the above Act is administered by the County Council. Mr. R.T. Edwards, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures has reported as follows on samples taken in the District during the year.

ARTICLE	NO. OBTAINED	NO. CERTIFIED AS ADULTERATED OR NOT UP TO STANDARD	REMARKS.
Milk (Formal)	7	-	
Milk (Informal	6	-	
Blackcurrent Drink	1	-	
Whipped Ice Cream	1	-	
Double Cream	2	-	
Bread	1	1	Contaminated with foreign matter.
Pork & Beef Sausage	1	-	
Fish Cakes	1	-	
Mincemeat	1	-	
Pork Sausages			Not of the quality demanded. Decomposed and containing maggots. Fined £10 and £6. 6s. 0d. costs in Towyn Court.
Fruit Pie	1	1	Not of quality demanded Contaminated with mould. Fined £10 and £6. 6s. 0d. costs in Towyn Court.
Loaf of Bread	1	1	Not of the substance demanded; contained foreign matter. Fined £30 and £10. 4s. 0d. costs in Towyn Court.